

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
MIKE ANTONOVICH

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DONATIONS OF USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Millions of disposable printer ink cartridges are sold each year, and most end up in our landfills as trash. In Los Angeles alone, thousands of ink-jet laser printers are purchased for use with personal computers throughout County departments. Currently, the County disposes of its used printer cartridges by returning them to the manufacturer with pre-paid envelopes, disposing of them at auction, or simply discarding them.

In its surplus property disposal role, the Internal Services Department (ISD) recently solicited proposals for vendors to buy the County's used printer cartridges in bulk for refilling and resale of the used cartridges. For the most common types of cartridges, vendors offered to pay \$0.25 to \$1.00 for each cartridge. In addition, to dispose of these cartridges, the County would incur costs related to sorting and preparing the cartridges for auction, managing the contact vendors, depositing payments, and other administrative costs. As a result, the monetary value of these cartridges to the County is nominal.

Recently, the Hero Appreciation Network, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, requested that the County donate its used printer cartridges to support its "Scholarships

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____

for Youth at Risk” program. Offering to provide self-addressed mailers or pick up used cartridges directly from County departments, the Hero Appreciation Network awards 100 percent of its proceeds for scholarships to at-risk youth and awards each scholarship in the name of a fallen hero (military, law enforcement, or firefighter) who lost his or her life in the line of duty.

Currently, the County operates a computer equipment donation program to non-profit charitable organizations. To promote recycling of used printer cartridges, the County should consider the creation of a similar program, allowing qualified non-profit agencies to request the County’s used cartridges to support their programs.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors authorize ISD to establish a program whereby County departments can provide used printer cartridges to support qualified charitable organizations in Los Angeles County.

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